

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 DIWY-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8100

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBABANE 0964

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, IWY, UN, WZ

SUBJECT: SWAZI DELEGATION TO WORLD CONFERENCE OF INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S YEAR (WCIWY)

REFS: A. STATE 129496; B. STATE 119806; C. USUN 1722

1. LATEST REPORTS FROM GOS DEPT. OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS INDICATE
SWAZILAND IS STILL PLANNING TO SEND LARGE DELEGATION TO WCIWY
CONFERENCE IN MEXICO. DELEGATION IS TO BE LED BY MEMBERS OF THE
ROYAL FAMILY AND WILL REPRESENT VIEWS OF SWAZILAND'S TRIBAL
ESTABLISHMENT RATHER THAN THE OPINIONS OF YOUNG MODERNISTS.

2. LEADING SWAZI DELEGATES ARE EXPECTED TO BE THE FOLLOWING:

A. PRINCE MASITSELA DLAMINI. THE OFFICIAL HEAD OF THE
DELEGATION. ONE OF THE MOST PROMINENT OF THE KING'S SONS, MINISTER
OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION SINCE 1972. BORN IN 1930, HIGH SCHOOL
EDUCATION. HAS FREQUENTLY TRAVELED ABROAD, INCLUDING THE U.S. A
CONFIRMED TRADITIONALIST, NOT KNOWN FOR HIS INITIATIVE OR DRIVE.

B. SENATOR MARY MDINISO. THE SENIOR WOMAN ON THE SWAZI
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DELEGATION AND PROBABLY THE BEST KNOWN WOMAN IN THE KINGDOM.

MS. MDINISO HAS A REPUTATION FOR CHARITABLE AND CHURCH WORK. IN 1967, AT THE AGE OF 34, SHE WAS APPOINTED TO THE SENATE BY THE KING. SHE IS WIDELY ADMIRERD, THOUGH CONSIDERED TO BE QUITE CONSERVATIVE.

C. PRINCESS NGETBETI DLAMINI. A DAUGHTER OF KING SOBHUZA, EMPLOYED AS A RADIO ANNOUNCER BY SWAZILAND BROADCASTING SERVICE. ALTHOUGH SHE TRAINED IN EUROPE, SHE IS CONSIDERED TO BE A CONSERVATIVE/TRADITIONALIST.

3. COMMENT: THE COMPOSITION OF THE SWAZI DELEGATION TO WCIWY HAS BEEN CRITICIZED BY MANY YOUNGER SWAZI WOMEN, WHO ARE ANGERED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS CHOSEN TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OLD RURAL POLITICAL/SOCIAL ORDER, NEGLECTING THOSE WITH A EUROPEAN EDUCATION OR SUBSTANTIVE POSITIONS IN THE BUREAUCRACY.
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